

MISC. INFO

If the radiance of a thousand suns were to burst at once into the sky that would be like the splendor of the Mighty One...

I am become Death, the Shatterer of Worlds.

J. Robert Oppenheimer, Quoting "The Bhagavad Gita", Alamogordo, New Mexico, 1945

Different shapes/effects of detonation:

ball of fire, cloud chamber, base surge, cloud chamber effect, mushroom cloud, plume formation

Atoll: a ring-shaped reef, island, or chain of islands formed of coral.

Broken Arrow: refers to an accidental event that involves nuclear weapons, warheads or components which does not create the risk of nuclear war. The Pentagon's official list of "broken arrows" – mishaps with nuclear weapons that might threaten the public – mentions 32 accidents. Yet a 1970 study by one of America's nuclear weapon laboratories, obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, stated that at least 1,200 weapons were involved in accidents between 1950 and 1968.

Broken Arrow 14 refers to the 1966 Palomares B-52 crash, or the Palomares incident, which occurred on 17 January 1966, when a B-52G bomber of the United States Air Force's Strategic Air Command collided with a KC-135 tanker during mid-air refuelling at 31,000 feet (9,450 m) over the Mediterranean Sea, off the coast of Spain. The KC-135 was completely destroyed when its fuel load ignited, killing all four crew members. The B-52G broke apart, killing three of the seven crew members aboard

Mk.: Mark

US nuclear weapons of all types – bombs, warheads, shells, and others – are numbered in the same sequence starting with the Mark 1 and (as of March 2006) ending with the W-91 (which was canceled prior to introduction into service). All designs which were formally intended to be weapons at some point received a number designation. Pure test units which were experiments (and not intended to be weapons) are not numbered in this sequence.

Early weapons were very large and could only be used as free fall bombs. These were known by "Mark" designators, like the Mark 4 which was a development of the Fat Man weapon. As weapons became more sophisticated they also became much smaller and lighter, allowing them to be used in many roles. At this time the weapons began to receive designations based on their role; bombs were given the prefix "B", while the same warhead used in other roles, like missiles, would normally be prefixed "W". For instance, the W-53 warhead was also used as the basis for the B53 nuclear bomb. Such examples share the same sequence number.

